

1. Valued content in a digital form comprising:

a digital file; and

a digital string provided by a purchaser to a provider system of the valued content, having a latent value at least to said purchaser, and

5 embedded in said digital file by said provider system before the valued content is conveyed to said purchaser.

2. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, wherein said embedded digital string further comprises an embedded digital string encrypted by said provider system.

3. Valued content in accordance with claim 2, wherein said encrypted digital string further comprises a private digital string encrypted using a public key of a private/public encryption key pair and a public digital string encrypted using a private key of said private/public key encryption key pair.

4. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, wherein the valued content further comprises said digital string embedded in said digital file in a human perceptible form.

5. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, wherein said digital file further comprises a digital watermark generated by said provider system from said digital string.

6. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, wherein said digital file further comprises a digitized image.

7. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, wherein said digital file further comprises text.

8. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, wherein said digital file further comprises video images.

9. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, wherein said digital file further comprises digitized audio.

10. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, wherein said latent value further comprises information which places said purchaser at increased financial risk when known by another.

11. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, wherein said digital file further comprises a provider digital string.

12. Valued content in accordance with claim 11, wherein said provider digital string further comprises a digital string encrypted by said provider system.

13. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a portable media including said embedded digital file recorded on said portable media.

14. Valued content in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a portable media having said embedded digital file recorded thereon.

15. Valued content in a digital form comprising:  
a digital file; and  
a digital string provided by a purchaser to a provider system of the valued content, encrypted by said provider system, combined with an encrypted provider digital string, and embedded in said digital file by said provider system before the valued content is conveyed to said purchaser,

said digital string having a latent value at least to said purchaser which places said purchaser at increased financial risk when known by another.

16. Valued content in a digital form comprising:

an encrypted digital file having a digital string embedding process therein;

an encryption key; and

a digital string provided by a purchaser system to a provider system, having a latent value at least to said purchaser, and is embedded in said encryption key by said provider system before said encryption key, is conveyed to said purchaser, whereby a purchaser system decrypts said encrypted digital file using said embedded encryption key.

17. Valued content in accordance with claim 16, wherein said purchaser system embeds said digital string into said decrypted digital file using said digital string embedding process forming the valued content.

18. Valued content in a digital form comprising:

an encrypted digital file having a digital string embedder;

an encryption key; and

a digital string provided by a purchaser system to a provider system, having a latent value at least to said purchaser, and embedded in said encryption key by said provider system forming an authorization file, which is to be conveyed to said purchaser system.

19. Valued content in accordance with claim 18, wherein said encrypted digital file further comprises an extractor wherein said extractor uses said authorization file to decrypt said encrypted digital file and said digital string embedder embeds said digital string into said decrypted digital file using said purchaser system forming the valued content.

20. Valued content in a digital form comprising:

an encrypted digital file;

an authorization file having

an encryption key;

a digital string provided by a purchaser system to a provider system, having a latent value at least to said purchaser, and

embedded in said encryption key by said provider system; and

a digital string embedding process including the capability of:

conveying said authorization file to said purchaser system;

decrypting said encrypted digital file using said authorization file;

embedding said digital string into said decrypted digital file forming the valued content using both said authorization file and said digital string embedding process.

21. A method for protecting valued content comprising the steps of:

acquiring a digital string from a purchaser, said digital string having a latent value at least to said purchaser;

embedding said acquired digital string in a digital file; and

conveying said embedded digital string and said digital file, as valued content, to said purchaser.

22. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, further

comprising the step of encrypting said digital string.

23. A method in accordance with the method of claim 22, wherein said

encrypting step further comprises the step of encrypting said digital string with a public encryption key of a private/public encryption key pair forming a

private digital string.

24. A method in accordance with the method of claim 22, wherein said encrypting step further comprises the step of encrypting said digital string with a private encryption key of a private/public encryption key pair forming a public digital string.

25. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, further comprising the step of generating a digital watermark from said digital string.

26. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, wherein said embedding step further comprises the step of embedding a provider digital string in said digital file.

27. A method in accordance with the method of claim 26, further comprising the step of encrypting said provider digital string.

28. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, further comprising the step of recording said embedded digital file on a portable media.

29. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, wherein said conveying step further comprises the step of transmitting said valued content to said purchaser via a network.

30. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, wherein said conveying step further comprises the step of transmitting said valued content to said purchaser via a wireless communication network.

31. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, wherein said embedding step further comprises embedding said acquired digital string in a digitized image.

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32. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, wherein said embedding step further comprises embedding said acquired digital string in digitized audio.

5 33. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, wherein said embedding step further comprises embedding said acquired digital string in a video image.

10 34. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, wherein said acquiring step further comprises acquiring information from said purchaser that places said purchaser at increased financial risk when known by another.

15 35. A method in accordance with the method of claim 21, further comprising the step of a provider system negotiating with said purchaser system to determine a content for said digital string.

20 36. A method for protecting valued content comprising the steps of:  
acquiring a digital string from a purchaser, said digital string having a latent value at least to said purchaser;  
embedding said acquired digital string in an encryption key; and  
conveying embedded encryption key and an encrypted digital file, as valued content, to said purchaser.

25 37. A system for generating valued content in a digital form comprising:  
a processor;  
a storage device coupled to said processor;  
an interface coupled to said processor and a purchaser system; and  
a valued content in a digital form comprising:  
a digital file, and  
30 a digital string provided by a purchaser to said processor,  
having a latent value at least to said purchaser, and embedded in said digital

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file by said processor forming a second digital file to be conveyed to said purchaser system as valued content system using said interface.

38. The system of claim 37, further comprising an output device coupled to  
5 said processor to provide human perception of said content.

39. The system of claim 37, further comprising:  
an interface coupled to said processor; and  
a network connection coupled to said interface and to a purchaser  
10 system.

40. The system of claim 39, further comprising a wireless network coupled  
to said interface and said purchaser system.

41. The system of claim 37, wherein said processor is adapted to  
15 negotiate with said purchaser system to determine a content of said digital  
string.

42. The system of claim 37, further comprising a point of sale machine  
20 coupled to said processor.

43. The system of claim 42, further comprising:  
an interface coupled to said processor;  
a sale interface coupled to said point of sale machine;  
25 a network connection to said interface and to said sale interface.

44. A system for generating valued content in a digital form comprising:  
a purchaser processor adapted to communicate to said provider  
system an interest in purchasing a digital file from a content owner;

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an interface coupled to said purchaser processor and a provider system adapted to request a digital string from said purchaser processor, having a latent value at least to said purchaser; and

- 5 a storage device coupled to said purchaser processor and adapted to send said digital string to said provider processor using said interface.

45. The system of claim 44, further comprising a wireless network coupled to said interface and said provider system.

- 10 46. The system of claim 44, further comprising a network coupled to said interface and said provider system.

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